



TIMELINE OF THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

- 1905 Building committee formed for art museum provided for independently in the estates of John Huntington, Hinman B. Hurlbut, and Horace Kelley, on land reserved by Jephtha H. Wade
- 1913 Building construction commenced, Hubbell and Benes, Cleveland, architects, May 20 • The Cleveland Museum of Art officially incorporated, Judge William B. Sanders, president, July 2 • Frederic Allen Whiting appointed director at first meeting of Board of Trustees, December 15
- 1914 First issue of The Bulletin of The Cleveland Museum of Art, April
- 1915 Post of assistant in charge of education established; exhibitions mounted in public libraries • Bequest of Dudley P. Allen Fund of \$150,000 • First painting purchased--John Singleton Copley's *Portrait of Mrs. John Greene* • *Dido and Aeneas* tapestries given in memory of Dudley P. Allen
- 1916 Building dedicated, June 6, and opened to the public, June 7; considered a turning point in museum architecture combining the best and latest in planning and arrangement; administrative staff totaled 7 • First 50 days' attendance averaged 2,300 per day • Gifts of Liberty E. Holden and J.H. Wade collections of paintings, John Long Severance collection of armor
- 1917 First Annual Report after Museum had been open for one year stated attendance had been 376,459; membership totaled 2,744
- 1919 Oriental (now Asian), Colonial, and Decorative Arts (now mainly Western Art) departments established • First Annual Exhibition of Cleveland Artists and Craftsmen, which came to be known as **The May Show** • The Print Club of Cleveland founded, in part to support the Museum's Print Department (now Prints and Drawings) established in 1920; the Club and its members--among the most generous being department heads Henry Sayles Francis and Leona E. Prasse--have given nearly one-third of the Museum's 13,000 prints
- 1920 J. H. Wade, elected president in November, established trust fund of \$600,000, later adding \$360,000, and the Wades gave 34 of their finest paintings
- 1921 Curatorship of Musical Arts established--an artist-in-residence post virtually unique in the museum world
- 1922 McMyler Endowment Fund of \$200,000 established to support work of the Musical Arts department • McMyler Memorial Organ dedicated, March 4
- 1924 Winslow Homer's late great marine painting *Early Morning After a Storm at Sea* acquired for the then-staggering amount of \$50,000

- 1928 Dedication of 5-acre Fine Arts Garden south of Museum property--a joint effort by the Museum, the Garden Club of Cleveland, and the City of Cleveland
- 1929 Archaic Greek *Athena* acquired for the largest amount yet spent by the Museum was among numerous Dossena forgeries which had duped many public and private collectors; returned money was spent primarily on Medieval objects; the story was immediately published in the Museum Bulletin and the Board urged publication of all Dossena forgeries in the U.S. • Primitive Art department established (now administered by Later Western Art department) • Gifts of African art from the Gilpin Players and the African Art Sponsors of Karamu House
- 1930 Six works from the Guelph Treasure purchased (three more purchased later) • William Mathewson Milliken appointed director, August 8
- 1931 Thomas Munro became Curator of Education • Exhibition of entire extant Guelph Treasure, including the Museum's nine works, viewed by 77,000 visitors at the Museum
- 1933 University-level adult education programs initiated
- 1934 Textile Arts Club established (later renamed Textile Art Alliance of Cleveland), in part to support the Museum's Textiles Department; the Alliance has added significant pieces to the textile collection
- 1936 Twentieth Anniversary Exhibition, including works by Titian and Raphael from the Louvre and other loans from European and American collections, is the official art exhibit for the Great Lakes Exposition celebrating the 100th anniversary of city's incorporation; 418,505 persons visited the Museum during the 100-day exposition • Van Gogh exhibition organized by MoMA was first of several MoMA shows of European modernists shown at the Museum thanks to funding from Leonard C. Hanna, Jr.
- 1938 Acquisition of ancient Chinese lacquered wood *Cranes and Serpents*
- 1941 25th Anniversary of CMA • Junior Council (now Women's Council) organized
- 1943 Mr. and Mrs. William H. Marlatt Fund established for purchase of paintings; first acquisition was Goya's *Portrait of Don Juan Antonio Cuervo* • John Long Severance bequest received, with promise of acquisition fund • Helen Humphreys, a teacher of Spanish in the Cleveland Public Schools, donated the first of 46 works--mostly Pre-Columbian--given in her parents' memory
- 1944 Elisabeth Severance Prentiss bequest received, including an endowment fund for operations
- 1945 Acquisition of *La Vie*, a masterpiece of Picasso's Blue Period
- 1946 Musart Society founded to support the work of the Museum's Musical Arts Department
- 1947 10,000,000th visitor, an Amish girl--Ella Weaver--from Chardon, Ohio, who visited with her school class
- 1948 Annual attendance breaks half million mark for the first time at 600,841; record-breaking special exhibition attendance of 151,240 at **Masterpieces from Berlin Museums** accounted in part for this
- 1955 Groundbreaking for 1958 building to double Museum's size, Hays & Ruth, architects, May 14

- 1957 Museum closed for nine months to link old and new buildings and completely reinstall collection
- 1958 Opening of new building, March 4 • Sherman E. Lee assumed directorship, April 1 • Leonard C. Hanna, Jr., bequest received, unequalled by any in the museum world at that time: a remarkable group of Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings and \$34 million (income to be divided equally between acquisitions--doubling the Museum's acquisition funds--and operations) • First May Festival of Contemporary Music • Conservation department established
- 1962 Contemporary Art Department established • Known for her generosity in giving works of art, from ancient to modern, to the Museum collection, Emery May Norweb became first woman elected president of the Museum
- 1966 Fiftieth Anniversary • Expanded Handbook of The Cleveland Museum of Art published with 1,000+ illustrations in historical, cultural sequence (revised in 1970 and 1978)--the first product of a period of publishing including two catalogues of European paintings (1982)
- 1967 Joint program in art history with Case Western Reserve University established
- 1970 Rodin's monumental *The Thinker*, in front of Museum's south facade, bombed during the night on March 24, returned to view without repair, the damage becoming part of the sculpture's history
- 1971 Opening of education wing, Marcel Breuer & Hamilton Smith Associates, architects--roughly the same size as previous two buildings, permitting their use for the display of the permanent collection in a continuous sequence of art from Neolithic to modern times; the new building housed Education, Musical Arts, special exhibitions, and other operations • Exhibition **Caravaggio and His Followers** inaugurated the new galleries
- 1976 Exhibition **The European Vision of America** celebrates America's Bicentennial
- 1977 Painting depicting St. Catherine of Alexandria, identified as a rare work by 16th-century German master Matthias Grünewald when purchased in 1974, proven by Museum conservators to be a modern forgery; full purchase price refunded in cash and in the form of a late-14th-century Italian altarpiece by Spinello Aretino
- 1980 Noah L. Butkin bequest of 19th-century French art received
- 1981 **Eight Dynasties of Chinese Painting** combines works from the Cleveland and Nelson-Atkins museums for the most comprehensive exhibition of Chinese painting ever seen in the Western world • Teacher Resource Center established
- 1982 Groundbreaking for wing to house Ingalls Library (so named because of Ingalls family contributions in honor of former trustees Jane Taft Ingalls and Louise Harkness Ingalls) and galleries for 19th- and 20th-century Western art, Peter Van Dijk, architect, July 18
- 1983 Evan H. Turner began as director, July 1 • Library wing completed, Fall; Conservation department plans state-of-the-art facility in former library space, completed in 1985
- 1985 Kelvin Smith collection of Japanese and Chinese art given by Mrs. Kelvin Smith

- 1986 The Museum's increasingly ambitious schedule of special exhibitions includes three major international loan shows--**Blood of Kings: A New Interpretation of Maya Art, Impressionist and Post-Impressionist Masterpieces from the Courtauld Collection,** and **Paul Klee**--in ten months between October 1986 and August 1987
- 1987 Record-breaking annual attendance of 719,620--attendance had been roughly a half million since the 1950s; record-breaking attendance of 226,261 during **Courtauld** accounted in part for this
- 1989 Severance and Greta Millikin collection, partly committed to the Museum in 1964, enters the collection, and the Millikins' acquisition fund, established in 1971, greatly enlarged by bequest of Greta Millikin
- 1991 Parking structure opened, May • Membership totals 14,511 • 75th Anniversary celebration begins, June 7; festivities to continue through 1992

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